



Connecting Families to Supports—Training Starter

Objectives: All participants in the training will be able to:

- Identify strengths and challenges of program families
- Find ways to help families support one another
- Connect families to supports and assistance in the community

Total amount of time: _____ **Number of participants:** _____

Preparation: _____ **Materials:** _____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Training Opening

- Engage Participants _____ minutes
(Ice breaker/warm up activity related to the topic)

Introduce the Topic _____ minutes (Motivate participants, show them why the topic is important, and share objectives and agenda)

Training Middle _____ minutes

(Explain the topic in detail, demonstrate the concept and discuss it, and practice and apply the topic)

- Have participants look at *Understanding Program Families* from Tools to Use. Give them two copies and have them fill out one copy trying to answer from the perspective of a family they know well and another copy from the perspective of a family they don't know very well.
- Brainstorm ways to try and get to know the harder to reach or connect with families better.
- Using the *Understanding Program Families* forms that staff filled out for the families they know well, create a master list of skills or special knowledge of various program families.
- Using that list, have small groups think of ways (parenting workshops, coffee groups, sewing parties, etc.) for those family members to share some of their skills or special knowledge with other families. Have groups share out their ideas and talk about what it would take to make them a reality.



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- Mention the importance of connecting families to community resources and organizations especially those they may not be aware of. Have small groups create a community map of the area that lists different assets and opportunities in the community.
- Small groups share their maps with the larger group who then has a discussion about strategies (a resource book, having guest speakers from the community come in, etc.) for connecting those opportunities with program families.

Training Wrap Up and Closing

- Summarize, consolidate _____ minutes
(Connect back to the objectives, check for understanding, and discuss questions)

- Plan Next Steps _____ minutes
(Be specific about application to immediate practice.)

- Closing Comments _____ minutes
(Acknowledge, motivate and inspire)

Post-training assessment and revision

- Formal or informal assessment of effectiveness of training
- Note changes to make
- Note areas for additional training